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## ORIGIN

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Soviet Use of Japanese POW Labor

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The heavy clothing worn by the POW's was taken from them during processing and they were issued no clothing after assignment to a labor battalion. The food was extremely bad and of insufficient quantity. Malnutrition was prevalent and typhus became severe.

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No amusement was provided for the POW's, and when an attempt was made to organize a variety show it was found that gatherings of more than thirty persons were prohibited. The POW's smoked "mugwort" and dried leaves, and used newspapers for cigarette paper.

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6. Lectures given at weekly or twice-weekly meetings of the battalion called by the Soviets included a) praise of the principles of Communism, and b) analysis of the errors of Japanese militarism, the faults of the "Zaibatsu" and the errors of Japan's politics and foreign policy.

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Condition of the Soviet Residents of the Area

7. Food was scarce and the shortage of goods was acute; children were, for the most part, without shoes and clothing adequate to protect them from the severe cold. The residents begged constantly from Soviet soldiers passing through the city, and the POW's traded them socks and underwear for goods such as tobacco.

Equipment of Soviet Troops

8. Military equipment of Soviet troops was of poor quality. Arms carried by the Soviet soldiers appeared to be a combination of various weapons, some probably captured on the Russo-German front, of German, Japanese and Soviet make. The clothing worn by the soldiers was shabby and their shoes were of rubber, which had broken and cracked.

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